

**STATE SENATOR • JIM BARCIA • 31ST DISTRICT**

# **Barcia Press Release**

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## **Constituents to Barcia: “Jobs and the Economy are Top Priority”**

(LANSING)— Voters in Jim Barcia’s 31<sup>st</sup> State Senate District are clear about what is the most important issue facing the state of Michigan. Through over 250 responses to survey cards Barcia (D-Bay City) sent out recently to constituents in all parts of the district, 39% of people cited “Jobs and the Economy” as the issue that should be the Legislature’s top priority, followed by “Health Care and Prescription Drugs” with 20%. Though the survey is not a scientific poll, Barcia believes this accurately reflects the concerns he is hearing from people as he travels throughout the district.

“Whether it’s Arenac, Bay, Huron, Tuscola or Sanilac County, no matter where I go people are concerned about our economy and want to know what we are going to do to keep and create good paying jobs,” said Barcia. “Affordable health care and the high cost of prescription drugs are major concerns as well, so it doesn’t surprise me that these two issues were cited most often.”

Barcia intends to use the results of this survey to focus his energies on those issues that are at the top of his constituent’s priorities list. Since returning to the State Senate in 2003, Barcia has helped to secure millions of dollars in grants and appropriations for economic development and infrastructure improvement projects in the area, which have helped to keep and create hundreds of jobs in the 31<sup>st</sup> District. Barcia has also sponsored or co-sponsored at least 10 bills to assist in economic development, including legislation to double the amount of tax free zones for agriculture and increase options for development in older urban areas.

“In order to mitigate the disastrous effects of free trade policies in Michigan we need to

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improve the tax climate for small businesses and reduce unnecessary regulations on job providers,” continued Barcia. “We must also insure that our young people are prepared for the jobs of tomorrow, which means making the critical investments in education and job training. I look forward to continuing these efforts and working on those issues my constituents have weighed in on.”

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